



## Sunday January 19 - Saturday February 8

*During these 21 Days of Prayer, we encourage you to spend time praying and fasting to seek God for the purpose of growing deeper in what it means to put JESUS FIRST in everything in your life, and to grow together in putting Jesus first in all things in our church – especially as we see and sense God moving mightily. As a church, we will be praying through the Book of Colossians, which has for its theme “Jesus is Lord over all.” Our theme verse for this season of 21 Days of Prayer is Colossians 1:18 “He is also the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything.” Consider these 2 questions as you spend time seeking the Lord intentionally these next 21 days.*

1. "How is God calling me to put Jesus first in everything in my life?"
2. "How is God calling us to put Jesus first in everything as Head of our church?"

How does this prayer guide work?

**Intentional prayer time** – spend time intentionally getting alone with the Lord away from distractions each day and go through the Scripture and prayer points for each devotional.

**Family prayer time** – Tuesday is reserved for your family to learn the practice of praying together, hearing one another’s hearts, and seeking the Lord together.

**Church prayer time** – On Wednesdays, it is encouraged that you get together with a fellow church member and pray over the devotional and prayer points together. You can do this on the phone, in a household, a public place, or you can do this at one of the prayer gatherings on Wednesday evening with that church member. It is encouraged



that you contact that person and set up a time and place (even if doing it during a prayer gathering) to pray with that person.

## Day 1 – Sunday January 19

### *Colossians 1:1-8*

*<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Timothy our brother: <sup>2</sup> To the saints in Christ at Colossae, who are faithful brothers and sisters. Grace to you and peace from God our Father. <sup>3</sup> We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints <sup>5</sup> because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace. <sup>7</sup> You learned this from Epaphras, our dearly loved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, <sup>8</sup> and he has told us about your love in the Spirit.*

We are a thankful people for what God has done in us and in our brothers and sisters in Christ through His Gospel of grace. Jesus first disciples grow in their faith in Christ, love their brothers and sisters in Christ, rest in the hope that they have in Christ, and have the Gospel bear fruit and grow in them and through them to the lives of the lost around them. Glorify God for what the Gospel has done and continues to do!

Pray:

- *Thank God for your church family, all your brothers and sisters in Christ.*
- *Thank God for His grace given to you. Pray you will live in His grace.*
- *Pray that you and our church will grow in strong faith, strong love for one another, and strong hope in the promises of God for us in Christ.*



- *Pray for the Gospel to bear fruit and grow in you, in your brothers and sisters in Christ, and throughout the world and our community as we seek to live on mission for the Gospel.*

## Day 2 – Monday January 20

### *Colossians 1:9-14*

*<sup>9</sup> For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.*

We have been given a glorious inheritance in Christ! And the deeper we grow in our relationship with God, the more we will find joy, peace, rest, satisfaction, strength, and true life in the riches and the fullness of God in our lives. Jesus first disciples grow in desiring God and walking with God because they come to know the joy and fullness of dwelling in the everlasting love and empowering grace of God.

Pray:

- *Pray that you will be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.*
- *Pray that you will walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him.*
- *Pray that God will bear the fruit of the life-changing Gospel through you.*



- *Pray for strength from God's power, endurance and patience in life, and joy to grow in your life.*
- *Give thanks to God for the inheritance of promise He has given you in Christ.*

## **Day 3 – Tuesday January 21 ~ Family Prayer Time**

(Get together with your family and pray)

### ***Colossians 1:9-14***

<sup>9</sup> *For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,* <sup>10</sup> *so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,* <sup>11</sup> *being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully* <sup>12</sup> *giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.* <sup>13</sup> *He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.* <sup>14</sup> *In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Dwell for a moment on the idea that Jesus has rescued you. He has rescued and redeemed you. He has forgiven you of everything and given you everything through a relationship with God. Spend time as a family thanking God for saving you and praying for each of you to grow in your relationship with God.

Pray:

- *Thank God for sending Jesus to rescue, redeem, and forgive you.*



- *Thank Him for transferring you into His everlasting kingdom.*
- *Pray for one another to grow in your relationships with God.*
- *Talk about where you struggle in your relationships with God. Pray for each other.*
- *Pray for lost family members, friends, neighbors, and people around all of you who need to be rescued by Jesus and come out of darkness into light and eternal life.*

## **Day 4 – Wednesday January 22 ~ Church Prayer Time**

(Get together with your church family and pray)

### *Colossians 1:9, 1:18*

*<sup>9</sup> For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you...<sup>18</sup> He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.*

There is something beautiful about believers praying for one another. There is something beautiful about the church praying together for God to act and move. Call or meet with a fellow brother or sister in Christ today, and pray together for one another and for our church.

Pray:

- *Ask how you can pray for your brother or sister in Christ.*
- *Pray that God will make us a Jesus first people.*
- *Pray that our church will never lose sight of keeping Jesus first in everything and that we will submit to Him in everything as our Head.*
- *Pray that God would reveal places where we as a church need to put Him first and pray for Him to bring that change and refocus us.*





- *Pray that God would make His direction and vision clear to our church as we seek His will for the future and as we seek to keep Jesus first.*
- *Pray that Jesus and His Gospel mission of making disciples who make disciples would be first in all of our ministries as a church.*

## **Day 5 – Thursday January 23**

### ***Colossians 1:15-20***

*<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and by him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

No Scripture describes the centrality and supremacy of Christ like Colossians 1:15-20. He is Lord over creation, He is Lord over new creation, He is Lord over the church, and He is Lord over us. All the fullness of God's deity dwells in Christ bodily. He has made peace for us through His shed blood on the cross so that we might be reconciled to God. Because of Who Jesus is and What Jesus has done, He deserves to be Lord of our lives. Jesus is worthy to be first in everything.

Pray:



- *Praise Jesus for Who He is and What He has done from Col. 1:15-20.*
- *Seek the Holy Spirit's guidance where God is calling you to put Jesus first in areas of your life. Examine your heart, take an inventory of your life.*
- *Surrender whatever gets in the way of Jesus first in your life.*
- *Pray for Jesus to be first in your life and pray that God would stir your affections and love for Jesus just as He has loved you affectionately.*
- *Pray again for Jesus to be first in our church and in the lives of your brothers/sisters in Christ. Pray that He will make us a Jesus first people.*

## **Day 6 – Friday January 24**

### ***Colossians 1:21-23***

*<sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. <sup>22</sup> But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him— <sup>23</sup> if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.*

Once we were alienated from God...now in Christ, we have been accepted by God and reconciled to God! Before God, with Christ in us and His favor upon us, God no longer sees the dirty rags of sin in us, but Christ presents us before His Father holy, faultless, and blameless, “dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.” This is our hope in the Gospel that keeps us a Jesus first people no matter the circumstances!

Pray:



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# DAYS OF PRAYER

- *Take a moment to thank Jesus for doing everything necessary through His death and resurrection to rescue, redeem, and reconcile you to God.*
- *Pray that you will remain grounded and steadfast in your faith with a Jesus first heart no matter the interruptions, trials, or sin struggles that come up.*
- *Pray that the Lord will protect you from anything that will cause you to shift away from your hope in the Gospel.*
- *Pray that God will form your heart as a servant of the Gospel and will remove distractions that keep you from putting Jesus first as His servant.*
- *Pray that our church will be emboldened to proclaim and bring the hope of the Gospel to the lost around us.*
- *Pray for the Lord to form in us the passionate heart of a Gospel servant.*

## Day 7 – Saturday January 25

### *Colossians 1:24-29*

<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup> I have become its servant, according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me.

Paul labored, He strived, He suffered for the Gospel and for the church. And Paul was willing to live this life of sacrifice, surrender, and service because of what Christ did to sacrifice His life for Paul's sin, surrender Himself to save Paul, and He served Paul by taking His place on the cross.





Jesus is worthy of our hearts and our lives. Will you live your life for the Gospel and lay down everything in your life to keep Jesus first?

Pray:

- *Thank Jesus for suffering for your sins and taking your place on the cross.*
- *Pray that you will be willing to lay aside comforts as a servant of Christ.*
- *Pray that our church would pursue spiritual maturity in Christ.*
- *Pray that our church would labor, strive, and even be willing to suffer as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1) for the Gospel to make Gospel impact.*
- *Pray that God would give you and our church courage to faithfully share the Gospel. Ask God to show you where and how He is calling you to live this out. Ask God to open doors for us to share and live out the Gospel.*